

REPORT

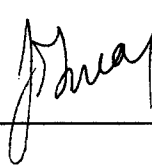
DATE: April 18, 2005

TO: Regional Council

FROM: Naresh Amatya, Lead Regional Planner, Planning and Policy
213-236-1885; amatya@scag.ca.gov

RE: Preliminary Schedule for the next RTP Update

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve TCC recommendation to move forward with the proposed schedule for the next RTP Update.

SUMMARY:

Staff presented issues relative to the next RTP Update to Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC) at their last meeting on February 3, 2005. TCC directed staff to move forward with the triennial update process and to continue assessing and monitoring potential need for an amendment or an update and report back to TCC with specific recommendation in March. Accordingly, this item presented to TCC with specific recommendation at their March meeting.

Staff presented the proposed schedule for the next RTP Update that would accommodate an early update of the RTP, if needed, to ensure consistency and integrity of the current RTP in light of the proposed state budget and other funding inconsistencies that may arise prior to next plan update. Members of the TCC asked whether SCAG would be preparing an update or amendment, and staff indicated that adoption of the accelerated schedule would put SCAG in a position to produce either an RTP update or an amendment, and that this decision would be made in November. The committee also asked whether or not new projects (i.e. I-710) would be included in any RTP update or amendment. Staff indicated that if an early update or amendment were prepared, there would be ample opportunity to submit projects for inclusion in the RTP.

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Council adopted the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) on April 1, 2004. Transportation Conformity on the 2004 RTP was approved by the federal agencies on June 7, 2004 for the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), the Imperial County and Coachella Valley portions of Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB), and the San Bernardino portion of the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). Conformity for the Ventura County portion of the South Central Coast Air Basin and the South Desert Modified 1-Hour

Ozone Area was approved on June 16, 2004. Both federal (Title 23, CFR Sec.450.322) and state (Government Code 65080(c)) law requires that the RTP be updated at least once every three years in federally designated non-attainment and maintenance areas for air quality such as our region. Accordingly, the current RTP must be updated and adopted by the Regional Council by no later than April of 2007.

Staff presented several issues relative to the next RTP Update at your last meeting on February 3, 2005. The basic question confronting us is whether or not we should entertain an early amendment or an update of the 2004 RTP in order to maintain integrity of the plan and be consistent with the new fiscal realities as they unfold. And, if we do move forward with an early amendment or an update, when should we do it? At your February meeting you directed staff to move forward with the triennial update process and to continue assessing and monitoring potential need for an amendment or an update and report back to TCC with specific recommendation in March.

Uncertainties associated with the fiscal issues raised by staff that may warrant early amendment or update of the RTP have not changed. Most of these issues are going to take about a year to fully play out. Deciding whether or not to entertain an amendment or an update at that point would be too late. Therefore, in order for us to position ourselves to accommodate an amendment or an early update, we need to gear up now with the update process assuming we will need to meet an early update schedule. In the event that early update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, we would be in an enviable position of being able to spend more time in further refining the plan for adoption through the regular update schedule. The attached timeline for the proposed RTP update has been prepared based on this premise. The key milestones of the proposed schedule are:

- Complete updating goals, objectives, planing and technical assumptions, baseyear evaluation etc. by May 2005
- Complete development of No-project or Baseline growth by Aug 2005
- Establish Baseline performance conditions, needs assessment and baseline revenue forecast by Nov. 2005
- Develop alternative scenarios, including growth scenarios by Jan 2006. If an amendment or an update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, continue the alternatives process through July 2005.
- Analyze/evaluate the alternatives by April 2006. If an amendment or an update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, continue the alternatives evaluation process through Sept. 2005
- Release the Draft RTP/EIR in June 2006. If an amendment or an update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, release the draft in Oct. 2006.
- Adopt RTP/EIR/Growth Forecast in Aug 2006. If an amendment or an update becomes unnecessary or irrelevant, adopt in April 2007.

Public outreach would occur throughout the process on a continuous and on-going basis. Compliance with coordination and consultation requirements pursuant to AB 1246 will be met by convening the Regional Transportation Agencies Coalition (RTAC) at least a

month prior to final adoption of the RTP in either scenario. Status reports on RTP development will also be presented to RTAC on a regular basis as needed and appropriate so as to avoid last minute surprises.

Staff recommendation is to move forward with the proposed RTP update schedule accommodating a potential interim plan amendment or an update.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact. The budget for this work is already included in the current Overall Work Program (OWP).

DRAFT SCHEDULE **RTP UPDATE AND RELATED REGIONAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES, 2005-2007**

ID	Task Name	Qtr 1, 2005 Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 2, 2005 Apr	May	Jun	Qtr 3, 2005 Jul	Aug	Sep	Qtr 4, 2005 Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 1, 2006 Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 2, 2006 Apr	May	Jun	Qtr 3, 2006 Jul	Aug	Sep	Qtr 4, 2006 Oct	Nov	Dec	Qtr 1, 2007 Jan	Feb	Mar	Qtr 2, 2007 Apr	May	Jun
1																															
2	RTP/EIR																														
3	Goal, Objectives, Planning Assumptions, Baseyear evaluation																														
4	Develop No Project Growth Forecast																														
5	Establish Baseline Performance, Needs Assessment, Revenue Forecast																														
6	Develop Plan Alternatives, incl. Growth Scenarios																														
7	Analyze/Evaluate Alternatives & Select Preferred Alt.																														
8	Release Draft RTP & EIR																														
9	Adopt RTP/EIR/Growth Forecast																														
10	FHWA/FTA Approve RTP Conformity																														

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